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# American Spaces

## BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**November 2023**

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*With just over 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through content, resources, and programming. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.*

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*This issue of the American Spaces newsletter brings attention to Entrepreneurship month, and showcases speakers and resources as you create upcoming programming for your particular audiences.*

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*As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to [americanspaces@state.gov](mailto:americanspaces@state.gov). We hope you enjoy this issue!*

**Entrepreneurship Month is here!**

**November is  
National  
Entrepreneurship  
Month**



November is National Entrepreneurship Month, a celebration of innovation and economic vitality. Entrepreneurship spans diverse sectors, from local eateries to tech giants, showcasing its multifaceted impact on communities. The essence of entrepreneurship lies in the creation of businesses with the aim of turning a profit through unique products or services. Entrepreneurs, drawn from various backgrounds globally, contribute to economic growth, job creation, and, over time, have the potential to uplift communities from poverty.

**Unleashing Potential: The  
Entrepreneurial Odyssey of Bill Gates**

In the bustling corridors of innovation, many names stand out – Steve Jobs, Oprah Winfrey, Sheryl Sandberg, Mark Zuckerberg, Reginald F. Lewis, and Steve Chen, among many others. We have chosen to use Bill Gates as one example of entrepreneurial spirit that reflects many successful entrepreneurs. His entrepreneurial journey not only shaped the tech landscape but also embodies the essence of Global Entrepreneurship Month. Using Gates's story, we are able to illustrate the key entrepreneurial concepts that can inspire and guide future initiatives in your American Spaces programs.

**The Birth of a Visionary Mind**

In the mid-1970s, a young Bill Gates found himself fascinated by the nascent world of personal computers. There was a burgeoning industry with untapped potential that he recognized. Armed with a passion for computer programming and a keen eye for opportunity, Gates envisioned a future where computers would be accessible to everyone.

**A Blueprint for Innovation**

The task at hand was monumental – to transform a vision into reality. Gates recognized that entrepreneurship wasn't

just about starting a business; it was about thought leadership and creating something groundbreaking. He embraced the entrepreneurial spirit by co-founding Microsoft, driven by a commitment to revolutionize how people interacted with computers.

### **The Entrepreneurial Journey Unfolds**

Gates' actions mirrored the fundamental concepts of entrepreneurship – innovation, inclusivity, and skill-building. Microsoft's rise wasn't just about software; it was about owning intellectual property and introducing products that redefined the industry. Gates, much like any entrepreneur, wore multiple hats – from coding software to making strategic decisions – honing skills crucial for the success of his venture.

### **A Global Impact and a Legacy of Empowerment**

Microsoft's ascent not only brought economic benefits but also showcased the power of entrepreneurship to transform communities. Gates' actions empowered individuals globally by providing access to technology. This resulted in a thriving company, a transformed industry, and a legacy that continues to inspire new generations of entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurship, fundamentally, involves establishing a business based on a conceived concept or idea, with the entrepreneur driving thought leadership, creating processes, and owning intellectual property. This distinguishes entrepreneurs from mere business owners, as entrepreneurship embodies innovation and the introduction of novel products or services into the market. Economic benefits extend beyond individual gains, as entrepreneurs often strive to sustain their local communities through job opportunities.

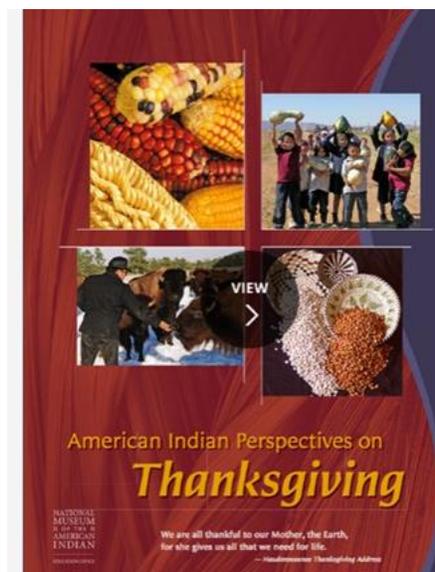
### **The Entrepreneurial Ripple Effect**

As we reflect on Gates' journey, it becomes evident that entrepreneurship is a catalyst for change, a force that transcends boundaries. It's about creating, innovating, and empowering communities. The concepts of inclusivity, economic benefits, and skill-building that we see in Gates' story are not isolated; they form the bedrock of entrepreneurial endeavors worldwide.

Starting a business without financial resources requires a focus on individual skills and passions. Entrepreneurs can tap into their networks, seeking support from friends and family or validating their ideas through connections. For those without secure internet access, barter and trade present viable avenues for building a business, exchanging services or products with other entities in the absence of immediate payment.

While entrepreneurship poses challenges, it remains a rewarding path for individuals with a fervor for transforming dreams into reality. As we celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Month, let us recognize the stories of entrepreneurs like Bill Gates, whose journeys exemplify the transformative power of entrepreneurship on a global scale. Let us also consider the potential within our own communities. Creating programs and supporting entrepreneurs in American Spaces is more than a task; it's a gateway to unlocking untold possibilities. Let's embark on our own entrepreneurial odyssey, fueled by the belief that innovation knows no bounds, and with your help, the next groundbreaking idea may be just around the corner.

## U.S. Culture: Thanksgiving



From the Smithsonian's [National Museum of the American Indian \(NMAI\)](#), a great 10-page [curriculum guide](#) and poster: [American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving](#) with lesson plans, discussion topics, and links.

## Reminder!

### And in advance for December!

On Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EST, the [Library of Congress](#) will [livestream](#) a lecture to commemorate [Human Rights Day](#) (Human Rights Day occurs on December 10).

About the lecture: Dr. Sarah Cooper will discuss the intersections between legal systems and scientific expertise.

"Inspired by the National Academy of Sciences' recommendation to expand our conceptions of science literacy, and drawing on the criminal justice system's use of forensic science for context, this lecture will present ideas for how we can work towards answering these questions and, in doing so, build a stronger justice system for all."

The lecture will also be available for viewing in the Library's [Event Videos](#) collection.



## U.S. Speaker Spot

*As a partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#), the American Spaces Newsletter is featuring selected speakers available for virtual programs with professional audiences on priority themes. For more information about the U.S. Speaker Program, and to submit a program request, please reach out to your local Public Diplomacy Section.*

Speakers featured for December include:



Schedule **Dr. Khadijat K. Rashid** for [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#). Dr. Rashid is a leading expert in deaf international education. She is the co-editor of "Citizenship,

Politics, Difference: Perspectives from Sub-Saharan African Communities,” and leads Gallaudet’s Nigeria-Africa (GAIN) program, which promotes multilingual tertiary education to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing communities.



Schedule Deborah Tucker for [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#)! *Deborah Tucker* is a domestic violence specialist for child protective services at Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and an adjunct lecturer at Texas State University. She is the former president of the board of directors of the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and an award-winning American women's rights activist.

Check out more [potential speakers on the American Spaces website](#)!

## Spotlight:

**Farmcraft is Here!**



## Farmcraft 2024 - Gaming for a Sustainable Future

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology and global challenges, an innovative initiative has emerged, seamlessly blending the exciting world of gaming with the real-world complexities of agriculture, food security, and sustainable development. We are delighted to introduce you to Farmcraft 2024, a pioneering endeavor that invites participants to

explore, learn, and make a tangible impact on our planet through the power of e-sports.

## Farmcraft Unveiled: A Fusion of Gaming and Education

Farmcraft is more than just a gaming competition; it's a captivating journey into the intricacies of agriculture in an era of digital transformation. At its heart, Farmcraft is a bridge that connects the virtual and the tangible, offering participants a chance to experience the complexities of modern agriculture using the Minecraft Education Edition platform.

### Why Farmcraft?

As our world grapples with pressing issues like climate change, food security, and sustainable development, Farmcraft steps forward as a catalyst for positive change. Whether you're a seasoned gamer or new to the gaming world, Farmcraft offers a unique opportunity to enrich your understanding of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) disciplines and explore promising career paths.

## A Sneak Peek into the Farmcraft Experience

**Gaming Challenges:** Farmcraft challenges you to sustainably cultivate virtual crops while tackling real-world agricultural dilemmas. It blends fun and learning.

**Digital Agriculture:** Immerse yourself in the realm of digital technologies revolutionizing farming. Discover how innovation is shaping agriculture.

**Global Connection:** Join a global community of gamers, farmers, scientists, and experts who share your passion for making a difference!

**Teamwork:** Enhance your collaboration and teamwork skills while having a blast playing a game that matters.

**Beyond the Game:** Farmcraft extends beyond the gaming screen. Engage in non-gaming activities that contribute to sustainable agriculture, food security, and global understanding.

## Save the Dates

\***YouTube Live:** December 5, 11am EST

\***Official Launch Email Coming Soon!**

\***Pre-Season:** February 1 to March 7

\***Regular Season:** March 11 to April 11

## Join the Movement

Are you ready to embark on this incredible journey with us? Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing updates, tutorials, and resources that will enrich your Farmcraft 2024 experience. Farmcraft is more than just a game; it's a mission to make a real impact.

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## Did you know?

### The International Day for Tolerance

November 16 marks the International Day of Tolerance, a significant initiative established by the United Nations in 1996 to foster understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures worldwide. This day encourages the creation of spaces where admiration and acceptance of varying cultures, beliefs, and ways of life thrive. To contribute to social harmony, consider engaging in educational programs, cultural events, and workshops centered on inclusion. Tolerance, at its core, promotes respect and paves the way for collaborative efforts across cultures.

Here are five impactful ways to participate in this meaningful day:

**1. Promote Inclusive Behavior:** Inspire inclusive behavior in your community and workplace. Encourage platforms for diverse perspectives to be heard, ensuring that everyone feels valued and included.

**2. Be Curious About the World:** Dedicate time to learning about different cultures, beliefs, and religions. Whether

through reading articles or watching documentaries, expanding your knowledge broadens your understanding of the world.

**3. Get Involved:** Connect with organizations dedicated to building bridges between cultures and promoting tolerance. Your engagement can make a real difference in fostering a more inclusive world.

**4. Encourage Activism through Social Media:** Leverage social media for positive change by sharing stories that celebrate diversity in your part of the world. Use your online presence to promote unity and understanding.

**5. Organize Events:** Foster connection and conversation within your community by organizing local meetups that celebrate different cultures. These events provide valuable opportunities for expanding perspectives.

Of course, building tolerance is an ongoing journey that extends beyond this dedicated day. Small, intentional actions each day contribute to creating a more harmonious and understanding world. Embrace the spirit of tolerance and let it guide your path towards a brighter future for all.

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## Democracy Toolkit now Available



The Managing American Spaces website now has a [Democracy toolkit](#) available for American Spaces programming. This new toolkit features sections on what democracy is, definitions, U.S. democracy, history, resources, and lesson plans for American Spaces.

We hope you enjoy its use and look forward to any feedback you might have about it and other toolkits.

## Calendar of Events

As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

**November:** [National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month](#),

**November 3:** [Sandwich Day](#).

**November 9:** [World Freedom Day](#), [Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall](#), [Go to a Museum Day](#)

**November 11:** [Veterans Day](#).

**November 13 - 17:** [International Education Week](#) and [Toolkit](#)

**November 13 - 19:** [Global Entrepreneurship Week \(GEW\)](#).

**November 15:** [Locally Employed Staff Recognition Day](#)

**November 16:** [International Day for Tolerance](#) and [Democracy and Human Rights Resources](#)

**November 19:** [Women's Entrepreneurship Day](#).

**November 20:** [World Children's Day](#).

**November 23:** [Eat a Cranberry Day](#) and [Thanksgiving Day](#)

**November 25:** [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

**December:**

**December 1:** [World AIDS Day](#) and [Toolkit](#)

**December 2:** [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#).

**December 3:** [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) and

[toolkit](#)

**December 4 - December 10:** [Computer Science Education Week](#)

**December 5:** [International Volunteer Day](#)

**December 7 - December 15:** Hanukkah (see [Jewish American Heritage Month Toolkit](#))

**December 7:** [Letter Writing Day](#)

**December 9:** [International Anti-corruption Day](#)

**December 18:** [International Migrants Day](#)

**December 20:** [International Human Solidarity Day](#)

**December 25:** Christmas Day

**December 26 - January 1:** Kwanzaa

**January: Human Trafficking Awareness Month** – [Human Trafficking Awareness Toolkit](#)

**January 2:** [Science Fiction Day](#)

**January 4:** [World Braille Day](#)

**January 11: Human Trafficking Awareness Day** see [Human Trafficking Awareness Toolkit](#)

**January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – [Kanopy documentary](#), Martin Luther King Jr. [Posters](#), and [American History and Culture Toolkit](#)

**January 16: National Religious Freedom Day** – see [First Amendment Rights: Freedom of Religion Toolkit](#)

**January 24:** [International Day of Education](#)

**January 25:** [Opposite Day](#)

**January 27:** [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#)

**January 29:** [Puzzle Day](#)

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at [AmericanSpaces@state.gov](mailto:AmericanSpaces@state.gov). If you have any questions or content to add, email [Karlene Noel Jennings](mailto:Karlene.Noel.Jennings).

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at [AmericanSpaces@state.gov](mailto:AmericanSpaces@state.gov).

## Engage & Grow (Social Media Playbook)

**November 2023 ECA Theme: #StudyWithUS**

**November –**

Native American Heritage Month –  
[#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth](#)

[#ExchangeOurWorld](#)

[#StudyWithUS](#)

[#OpenDoorsReport](#)

[#IEW2023](#)

**November 13 - 17** - International Education Week Theme  
“International Education is the Future”

**11/13** - “Open Doors to the Future”

The 2023 Open Doors report launches on November 13 and provides data and trend information that shows the depth and reach of international education on communities around the world.

**11/14** - “You are the Future!”

If you can see it, you can be it! Focus on Gilman, other scholarship opportunities, etc. HBCUs, HSIs, etc.

**11/15** - “The Future Is Global”

Focus on Study Abroad, #StudyWithUS

**11/16** - "Innovate the Future"

Focus on STEM and innovation across fields

**11/17** - "Lead the Future"

**November 24** – Thanksgiving Day – #ThanksgivingDay

**December is Human Rights Month #HumanRightsMonth**

**December 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day –  
#PearlHarborRemembranceDay

**December 25** – Christmas Day – #ChristmasDay  
Please consult with your REPS and/or your local Public  
Diplomacy Section for advice about current Department of  
State social media posture or specific situations. Thank you.

Please find additional hashtags in other languages [here](#). For  
examples of **November** social media posts, please [see this  
page](#) on the American Spaces Management website.

Digital assets for use by social media managers for American  
Spaces are available from the [albums in the American Spaces  
Facebook group](#). We currently have images for formatted for  
Facebook and Instagram for upcoming themes and you can  
customize the assets to fit your local community's needs.

Content Commons 2.0 was just released on November 7, 2023.  
Content Commons is the central Department repository for  
messaging guidance and digital content. It now boasts an  
improved search function, content in reverse chronological  
order that showcases the most relevant content first, and the  
future capacity to share content across posts. The redesign is  
meant to serve all PD Communicators for urgent messaging on  
press, as well as longer-term content for Ambassadors'  
speeches, event planning, and targeted audience messaging.  
You can find it [here](#).

**Engage & Grow Digital Crops**

**(Farmcraft 2024--COMING SOON!)**



NASEF Farmcraft® is an educational program that uses the popular game of Minecraft to enhance the understanding of the challenges faced by agricultural producers and distributors around the world. It focuses on food trade, food security, and alternative methods of agriculture. The program is designed to supplement the learning of students ranging from 8-18 years of age. NASEF will thoroughly equip you for running the program by providing team and educator guides, video livestreams and recordings, and free copies of Minecraft Education Edition plus the Farmcraft custom world. Plus, there are prizes!

If you'd like to learn more, or if you have questions about Farmcraft, please visit: [Farmcraft \(nasef.org\)](https://farmcraft.nasef.org) and [YouTube.com/@nasefedu!](https://www.youtube.com/@nasefedu)





# American Spaces

Want to learn about more events in your area or causes you care about? Tell us about yourself and your interests here:

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